



Department of Health  
Agency of Human Services



## May 19: EMS Day at State House Honors Vermont EMS Responders



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BURLINGTON – In honor of the efforts of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) personnel and agencies across Vermont, this year's theme for the annual EMS Week is "EMS Strong"

EMS Day will bring together first responders from among the more than 2,700 EMS providers along the State House lawn on Tuesday May 19th (9 a.m. to 2 p.m.) as a part of National EMS Week celebrations.

Health Commissioner Harry Chen, MD will read a proclamation at 9:15 a.m. honoring EMS providers and recognizing the critical role they play every day in saving lives and responding to emergencies. In addition, the Annual EMS Award winners will be recognized in a range of categories. These awards aim to recognize outstanding dedication and service by both agencies and individuals.



This year's winners are:

- First Response Service of the Year: Winhall Police and Rescue
- Ambulance Service of the Year: Cambridge Rescue Squad Inc.
- Basic Life Support (BLS) Provider of the Year: Edmund Sullivan of Middlebury Regional EMS
- Advanced Life Support (ALS) Provider of the Year: Kandis Charlton of Regional Ambulance
- EMS Educator of the Year: Christine McCarthy of St. Michael's College Fire and Rescue.

Many of Vermont's EMS personnel are volunteers who serve as medical first responders and with ambulance services in nearly every corner of the state. EMS providers also educate people about hazards such as fall prevention for the elderly, proper car seat use for children and infants, and wearing a helmet when riding a bicycle.

To help recruit new EMTs, the Health Department has launched the OnCall for Vermont initiative. OnCall for Vermont is the hub for health-focused volunteering, training and response and aims to recruit EMS and Medical Reserve Corps members. These volunteers prepare and respond to community health threats, gain clinical experience, and professional development. The public can learn more about becoming an EMT at [OnCallforVT.org](http://OnCallforVT.org)

"The rural nature of our state and the relatively small size of most Vermont communities makes it one of the toughest places in the nation to offer fast, reliable and high-level EMS services," said Health Commissioner Harry Chen, MD, who worked as an emergency room physician for more than 20 years in Rutland. "EMS is a key component of our public health efforts and everyone associated with emergency medicine respects and appreciates the work they do."

The event on May 19 will include an open-house with access to the EMS equipment and ambulances with demonstrations on how the equipment is utilized in an emergency.

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